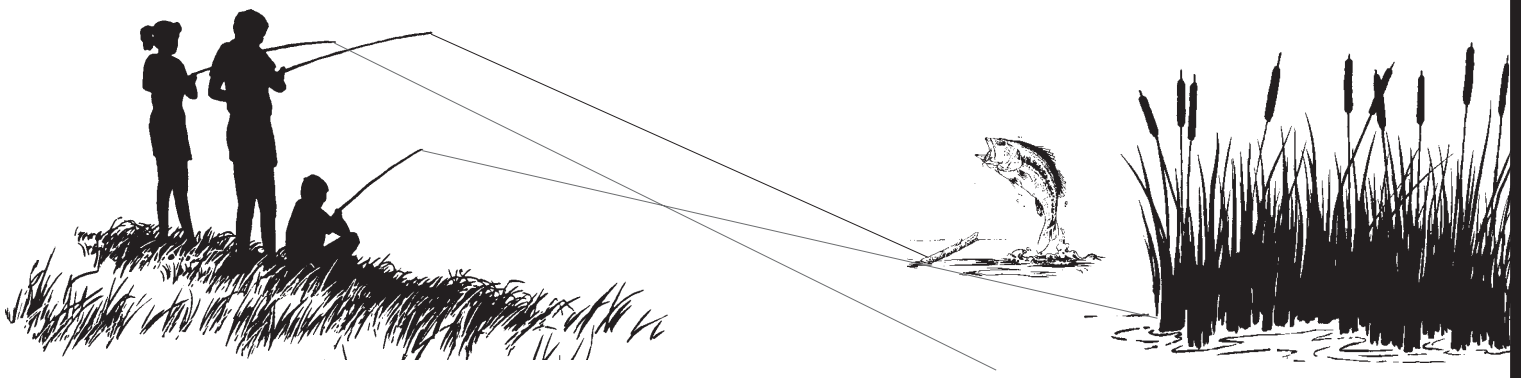
AQUAGUIDE
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Stocking Options For Your New Pond



So, you want to stock some fish in your new or renovated pond? Hopefully, you have already read the fish stocking portions of the *Missouri Pond Handbook* or have received stocking recommendations from a professional resource manager from the Missouri Department of Conservation or the private sector. In either case, you should have a pretty good idea of the species you wish to stock, numbers and sizes of fish needed, and best time to stock the fish. Now, you have to decide where to get your fish.

Missouri Department of Conservation Private Pond Stocking Program

Fingerling largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish for the initial stocking of a new or renovated pond can be obtained from the Missouri Department of Conservation through its private pond stocking program. To be eligible for participation in the program, a pond must meet the following requirements:

- Water must be at least eight feet deep.
- Water and shoreline must be protected from livestock use (ponds over five acres need not be fenced).
- The dam must be constructed for permanency and water tightness, and the drainage area should be adequate but not excessive for water storage.
- No undesirable fish may be present prior to stocking.
- Water quality must be sufficient to ensure the survival of the stocked fish and sustain good fishing.
- Stocking will not endanger species of conservation concern.

Landowners interested in participating in the program, complete a pond stocking application (copy included) and submit it by July 15th. The pond is inspected, and if it meets the criteria, the landowner is informed of the number of fish that will be provided and the arrangements for fish distribution. Young-of-the year bluegill and channel catfish are distributed in September, and young-of-the-year largemouth bass are distributed the following June. Landowners participating in this program are not obligated to allow fishing or other uses of their land by the general public but the pond and its fish are subject to the regulations of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*.

Commercial Fish Producers

You may choose to purchase the largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish for the initial stocking of your new or renovated pond from a commercial fish producer. The table on the next page highlights the differences between participating in the Department of Conservation's private pond stocking program and obtaining fish from a commercial fish producer. Purchasing fish from a commercial fish producer may provide greater management flexibility as well as the possibility of developing harvestable fish populations more rapidly.

Even if you plan on stocking fish provided by the Department of Conservation, at some point, you will need to obtain at least some fish from commercial fish producers. The fathead minnows that should be stocked several months prior to the initial stocking of largemouth bass, the channel catfish needed to maintain good catfishing after the initial catfish are harvested, and any additional species of fish that you would like to have in your pond (e.g., redear sunfish, black crappie or others) will all have to be purchased from commercial fish producers. A variety of species and sizes are available from fish producers during much of the year. A list of Missouri commercial fish producers is included with this publication. Additional information is available in the "Missouri Aquaculture Directory", which can be obtained by contacting the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Market Development Division at 800-419-9139 or from your nearby University Outreach and Extension Center.

A Comparison of Sources of Fish for Initial Pond Stocking

Fish Provided by the Department of Conservation (MDC)	Fish Purchased from a Commercial Fish Producer
Your pond must meet the minimum standards for participation.	No minimum standards.
Standard combination of largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish is stocked at the standard stocking rates. See the Department's suggested stocking rates table (below).	A larger selection of fish is available, accommodating a variety of pond management goals and objectives. Only species on the Missouri Approved Aquatic Species List may be stocked.
Only young-of-the-year fish are stocked and only at the prescribed times of the year regardless of when your pond is ready for stocking (i.e., 1-2" bluegill and 2-4" channel catfish in September; 1-2" largemouth bass the following June). These fish will grow to quality size in two to three years.	Fish are available in a range of sizes and during much of the year. If you stock larger fish, you do not have to stock as many and they will attain catchable size much sooner if sufficient food is available. You may wish to get advice on stocking rates and best times to stock from a Department of Conservation biologist.
If your pond is less than 10 acres in size, you must make two trips to a designated location at a specified time to pick up the fish, and you have to deliver the fish to the pond yourself. The Department delivers fish directly to ponds that are 10 acres or larger.	Fish are often available to meet your schedule. Small quantities of fish may be purchased at "fish days" at local feed stores. Fish can also be purchased directly from fish producers. You may also be able to arrange for the fish dealer to deliver fish directly to your pond.
For the initial stocking, fish are provided at no cost to the landowner.	The cost of fish will depend on the species, size and number desired, and whether they are delivered, shipped or picked up. The cost of stocking is small compared to pond construction costs.
By stocking your pond with fish supplied by MDC, your pond becomes "waters of the state" for purposes of fishing and handling your fish. This means that you and the members of your immediate household may fish the pond without a Missouri fishing permit, but everyone else, unless they are exempt, will need to have a valid Missouri fishing permit. Those who fish your pond must use legal methods as specified in Chapter 6 of the Wildlife Code and must abide by the statewide seasons, daily limits and length limits. This applies to the species stocked by the Department and any fish that you may later purchase and stock in your pond. Your pond will be considered waters of the state until it is drained or the entire fish population is removed.	As long as you have receipts for the fish you stocked, anyone can fish your pond without a Missouri fishing permit. You will have to provide successful anglers with receipts for the fish that are taken from your property. You can take fish from your pond by any method you wish, whenever you wish, and keep as many fish of whatever size you want. If desired, you may sell your fish without special permits.

<u>DO NOT</u> stock your pond with fish taken from creeks or other lakes and ponds.

The chances of getting undesirable species are high, and the probability of producing high quality fishing is low because it is difficult to obtain the balance of fish species and sizes that will produce and sustain good fishing.

MDC Suggested Stocking Rates for Ponds not Receiving Supplemental Feeding

(1-2" bluegill and 2-4" channel catfish stocked in Sept.; 1-2" bass stocked the following June)

Code

1 - 100% rate: 100 bass, 500 bluegill, 100 catfish per acre of water
2 - 50% with 75% option: 75 bass, 375 bluegill, 75 catfish per acre of water
3 - 50% rate: 50 bass, 250 bluegill, 75 catfish per acre of water.

County	Code	County	Code	County	Code	County	Code	County	Code
Adair	1	Clay	1	Jackson	1	Morgan	3	St. Francois	3
Andrew	1	Clinton	1	Jasper	1	New Madrid	1	St. Genevieve	3
Atchison	1	Cole	2	Jefferson	2	Newton	2	St. Louis	1
Audrain	1	Cooper	2	Johnson	1	Nodaway	1	Saline	1
Barry	2	Crawford	3	Knox	1	Oregon	3	Schuyler	1
Barton	1	Dade	2	Laclede	3	Osage	2	Scotland	1
Bates	1	Dallas	2	Lawrence	2	Ozark	3	Scott	1
Benton	2	Davies	1	Lewis	1	Pemiscot	1	Shannon	3
Bollinger	3	DeKalb	1	Lincoln	1	Perry	2	Shelby	1
Boone	1	Dent	3	Lafayette	1	Pettis	1	Stoddard	1
Buchanan	1	Douglas	3	Linn	1	Phelps	3	Stone	3
Butler	2	Dunklin	1	Livingston	1	Pike	1	Sullivan	1
Caldwell	1	Franklin	1	McDonald	2	Platte	1	Taney	3
Callaway	1	Gasconade	2	Macon	1	Polk	2	Texas	3
Camden	3	Gentry	1	Madison	3	Pulaski	3	Vernon	1
Cape Girardeau	2	Greene	2	Maries	3	Putnam	1	Warren	1
Carrol	1	Grundy	1	Marion	1	Ralls	1	Washington	3
Carter	3	Harrison	1	Mercer	1	Randolph	1	Wayne	3
Cass	1	Henry	2	Miller	3	Ray	1	Webster	2
Cedar	2	Holt	1	Mississippi	1	Reynolds	3	Worth	1
Chariton	2	Howard	1	Moniteau	2	Ripley	3	Wright	3
Christian	1	Howell	3	Monroe	1	St. Charles	1		
Clark	1	Iron	3	Montgomery	1	St. Clair	2		

Missouri Commercial Fish Producers

Species Legend

Albino Catfish	ACC	Hybrid Striped Bass	HSB
Bighead Carp	BHC	Hybrid Sunfish	HSF
Black Crappie	BCR	Israeli Carp	IC
Bluegill	BG	Koi	KOI
Blue Catfish	BCF	Largemouth Bass	LMB
Brown Trout	BT	Muskellunge	MUS
Buffalo	BUF	Mosquito Fish	MF
Bullfrog	BULL	Northern Pike	NP
Bullhead	BH	Paddlefish	PAD
Carp	CARP	Rainbow Trout	RBT
Channel Catfish	CCF	Redear Sunfish	RSF
Crayfish	CRAY	Smallmouth Bass	SMB
Fathead Minnow	FHM	Tiger Muskie	TM
Golden Shiner	GS	Walleye	WAL
Goldfish	GF	White Sucker	WS
Grass Carp	GC	Yellow Perch	YP
Green Sunfish	GSF		

County	Name/Address/Phone#	Species Available
Barry	Crystal Spring Trout Farm Rt. 3 Box 3337 Cassville, MO 65625 (417) 847-2174 cys@mo-net.com	RBT, BT
Boone	McMillen-N-Northup Fish 4906 Hwy. PP Columbia, MO 65202 (573) 696-3022	BG, CCF, BCR, GC, GSF, HSF, LMB, RSF
Butler	Southern Missouri Catfish Co. Rt. 1 Box 67 Neelyville, MO 63701 (573) 989-6123	FHM
Camden	Ozark Fisheries 1100 Ozark Fisheries Rd. Stoutland, MO 65567 (573) 765-3227 (573) 765-3166 (fax) Salesof@ozarkfisheries.com	LMB, GF, KOI, CRAY, BG
	Osage Catfisheries, Inc. 1170 Nichols Rd. Osage Beach, MO 65065 (573) 348-2305 (573) 348-1895 (fax) fishery@usmo.com	CCF, LMB, BG, FHM, HSF, RSF, KOI, BCF, PAD, CARP, BCR, GC, ACC
Cass	Raccoon Valley Fisheries 21305 Staley Mound Rd. Pleasant Hill, MO 64080 (816) 987-3488 (816) 540-2367 (fax) raccoonvalleyfish@aol.com	CCF, LMB, BG, FHM, HSF, RSF, BCR, HSB, KOI, WAL, GC, SMB
Christian	Moon Valley Trout Ranch 3056 Moon Valley Rd. Ozark, MO 65721 (417) 587-3557 (417) 443-1020(fax) jrm3056@aol.com	RBT
	Rainbow Run Trout Park, Inc. 2549 State Hwy. O Highlandville, MO 65669 (417) 443-3400 (417) 443-3400 (fax) info@rainbowrun.net www.rainbowrun.net	RBT, GC,
Dent	Country Fish Farm, LLC Rt. 2 Box 328 Salem, MO 65560 (573) 729-4383 (573) 729-5021 (fax) fish@wavecomputers.net www.missourifishfarms.com	ACC, BCR, BG, BUL, CCF, CRAY, FHM, GC, GS, GSF, HSF, LMB, RSF, SMB, WAL, YP
Douglas	Crystal Lake Fisheries RBT Rt. 2 Box 528 Ava, MO 65608 (417) 683-2301 (417) 693-6565 (fax) clf@getgoin.net www.crystallakefisheries.com	
Howard	Strodtman Fish Farm 1191 Hwy. 87 Glasgow, MO 65254 (660) 338-2589 (660) 728-1056	CCF, LMB, BG
Jackson	Levasy Lake 1017 Tarsney Ln. Buckner, MO 64016 (816) 796-9963	CCF, GC, BG, LMB, HSF, RSF, WAL, FHM, BCR, GSF, HSB, SMB, YP, RBT
	Keller's Bait Farm P.O. Box 438 Buckner, MO 64015 (816) 650-9460	FHM, GC, CRAY, IC, GS, GF, KOI
Knox	Harrison Fish Farm Rt. 2 Box 61A Hurdland, MO 63547 (660) 423-5482 (660) 423-5279 hffcorp@marktwain.net	CCF, LMB, BG, FHM, HSF, RSF, CRAY, SMB, GC, BHC, WAL, BCR, HSB
Lewis	Jack Stiffey Farm 24803 State Hwy. Z Ewing, MO 63440 (573) 655-4427	CCF
Marion	Lucky K Fisheries 5185 Hwy. C Palmyra, MO 63461 (573) 769-2888	CCF, LMB, BG, FHM, BCR, GC
Moniteau	Poor Boys Fish Farm 41107 Fish Farm Rd. California, MO 65018 (660) 489-2347	CCF, BG, GC
Morgan	Missouri Goldfish Hatchery 517 Hatchery Rd. Stover, MO 65078 (573) 377-2343	CRAY, GS, FHM
	Troutdale Farm 14936 Sale Barn Rd. Versailles, MO 65084 (573) 378-5565	RBT, brook trout

Missouri Commercial Fish Producers

County	Name/Address/Phone#	Species Available
Ozark	Rainbow Trout Ranch P.O. Box 100 Rockbridge, MO 65741 (417) 679-3619 (417) 679-2470 (fax) info@rockbridgemo.com	RBT
Pemiscot	Pierce Fish Farms 1760 Co. Rd. 344 Caruthersville, MO 63830 (573) 333-4454	CCF
Pike	Curryville Fisheries 6333 Hwy. V Curryville, MO 63339 (573) 324-2285 (573) 594-3590 (fax)	CCF, LMB, BG, FHM, HSF, RSF, BCR, GS, WS, BUF, KOI, MUS, TM, NP, GC, GF, BH, CRAY, WAL
Polk	Highfill Fish Farm 72 Hwy. N Humansville, MO 65674 (417) 754-8598	CCF
Pulaski	Warnol Valley Lakes Fish Farm 10401 Circle Rd. Dixon, MO 65459 (573) 759-2907 (573) 759-2757 warnollakes@hotmail.com	LLC CCF
Ralls	N.E.M.O. Bait Co./Hobby Hut LLC 28880 Hwy. 19 P.O. Box 337 Perry, MO 63462 (573) 565-3271 (573) 565-3457 (fax)	FHM, GF, baitfish
Randolph	Randolph County Fish Farm 1955 Co. Rd. 1650 Cairo, MO 65239 (660) 277-4511	BG, BCR, BH, BHC, CARP, CCF, CRAY, FHM, GC, GF, GS, GSF, HSB, HSF, KOI, LMB, SMB, WAL, YP, RSF, longear sunfish
	Wilkerson Nursery P.O. Box 762 Moberly, MO 65270 (660) 269-8741	FHM, GF, GSF, baitfish
St. Charles	Lake Management Services 85 Wilderness Ln. Defiance, MO 63341 (636) 798-2691 (636) 987-2602 (fax)	CCF, LMB, BG, FHM, HSF, RSF, KOI, BCF, PAD, CARP, BCR, GC, HSB, ACC
St. Clair	Dain's Fish Farm 2550 SW Hwy. H Schell City, MO 64783 (417) 432-3391 dainsfishfarm@earthlink.net	CCF, CARP, CRAY, FHM, KOI, GF, BG, HSF, BCR, GC, GSF, RSF
Stoddard	Flowers Fish Farm 15189 Colonial Ln. Dexter, MO 63841 (573) 568-3736 (573) 568-2719 (fax) fishfarm@semo.net	CCF, BCR, BG, FHM, GC, HSF, RSF
	Taylor Fish & Farms, Inc. 10863 Co. Rd. 442 Dudley, MO 63936 (573) 624-2661	CCF

5/23/2006 MRU

Missouri Department of Conservation Regional Offices

Northwest Region
701 James McCarthy Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816/271-3100

Kansas City Region
3424 NW Duncan Road
Blue Springs, MO 64015
816/655-6250

Southwest Region
2630 North Mayfair Avenue
Springfield, MO 65803
417/895-6880

Ozark Region
551 Joe Jones Blvd.
P.O. Box 138
West Plains, MO 65775
417/256-7161

Northeast Region
2500 S. Halliburton Street
Kirksville, MO 63501
660/785-2420

St. Louis Region
2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO 63304
314/441-2215

Central Region
1907 Hillcrest Drive
Columbia, MO 65201
573/884-6861

Southeast Region
2302 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
573/290-5730

Missouri Department of Conservation

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

No.
Hatchery

Application for Fish to be Stocked in Private Impoundments

Please type or print all information

Landowner's Name

Last Name	First	Initial

Address

Street	City	State	Zip

Telephone

Home	Office

Caretaker's name and address (if they will be picking up fish)

Last Name	First	Intial

Address

Street	City	State	Zip

Telephone

Home	Office

NRCS Project (if yes enter size)

No	Yes	Impoundment Size
		acres

Impoundment Location

County	Township	Range	Section

Date Constructed

Year

Draw a map on the back of this form showing a route from the nearest town to your impoundment.
We will be unable to approve your application if the impoundment cannot be located and inspected.

The undersigned agrees to the following:

- the landowner retains full rights to control access to their land, but all fish are subject to the regulations presented in the Wildlife Code of Missouri.
- to make a fall and spring trip to obtain fish (see attached policy statement).
- to stock all fish provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation, and no others during the initial stocking period except as approved by the department.
- livestock are, and will continue to be, excluded from the impoundment area if the impoundment is less than five (5) acres.
- to the best of their knowledge, no undesirable fish are now present in the impoundment that would ultimately cause the failure of sustainable stocked fish populations. Fathead minnows are not considered undesirable and may be present in the impoundment prior to stocking.

Submit this form to your local MDC regional office, Conservation Agent or Private Land Conservationist by **July 15** to ensure your eligibility. Stocking approval will be confirmed by **September 1.**

Signature of Landowner or Caretaker _____ Date _____

Do not write below this line

ALL APPROVED APPLICATIONS MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE HATCHERY NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15.

Impoundment inspected by	Inspection Date	Acres (nearest 10th)	Approved	Rejected	Landowner notified of rejection	Renovation Date	Stocking Rate 100% ___ 75% ___ 50% ___

Special Instructions (Dept. use only):

12/01
RLN

Impoundment Size Estimation

Please help us make an initial estimate of the approximate size of your impoundment.

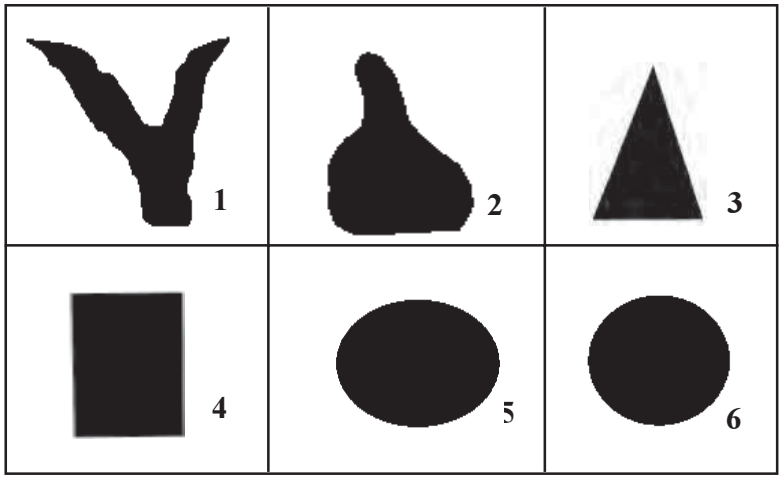
1) Circle the shape which most nearly matches your impoundment's shoreline.

2) Step off the distance around the impoundment. Walk as closely as possible to the anticipated shoreline. Record the total number of steps along this shoreline.

3) Record the estimated length of your step. (usually 1.5 to 3 feet)

Your Conservation Agent or Fisheries Biologist will verify the water acreage, determine if your impoundment can be approved for stocking, and calculate the proper number of fish to be stocked.

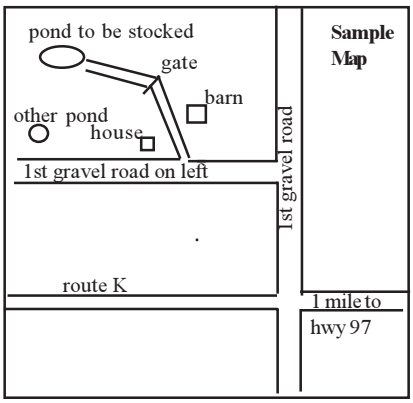
Impoundment Shapes



Number of steps _____

Length of step _____ *feet*

Impoundment Location Map



If your impoundment is **10 acres** or larger, the hatchery truck will deliver the fish directly to your impoundment. Consequently, a specific legal description is required to ensure proper delivery. Please add this to the bottom of your map.